

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 SAB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 ACDA-19

SAJ-01 OMB-01 NEAE-00 DRC-01 /164 W

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P 0131404Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6820

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USMISSION NATO

USINT CAIRO

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

USUN NEW YORK 6715

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 3885

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XT, XF, NATO

SUBJECT: JOBERT'S VIEWS ON SYRIA

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD AND DAMASCUS

REF: A) PARIS 2931 (NOTAL); B) USNATO 636 (NOTAL)

1. QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR THE LEVANT ROUILLON TOLD EMBOFF
FEBRUARY 12 THAT DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO SYRIA, FONMIN
JOBERT FOUND NOTHING TO SUPPORT THE OPINION THAT THERE
IS ANY SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PRESIDENT ASSAD AND
OTHER SYRIAN OFFICIALS OVER THE TOUGH LINE SYRIA HAS
MAINTAINED ON THE GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS. ALTHOUGH THE SYRIAN
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LEADERS MAY GIVE THE APPEARANCE OF BEING DIVIDED OVER THE DESIRABILITY OF MOVING TOWARD A SETTLEMENT, JOBERT JUDGED THEM TO BE ALMOST UNIFORMLY INTRANSIGENT.

2. ACCORDING TO ROUILLON, WHILE JOBERT EXPRESSED COMPREHENSION FOR SYRIAN POLICIES IN PUBLIC, IN PRIVATE, HE ALSO CAUTIONED THE SYRIANS ABOUT THE DANGERS OF STALEMATE. JOBERT DID NOT THINK HE MADE MUCH HEADWAY. ROUILLON SAID HE PERSONALLY IS VERY PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE CHANCES FOR SYRIA'S MOVING TO NEGOTIATIONS.

3. COMMENT: IF, AS SEEMS LIKELY, ROUILLON ACCURATELY REFLECTS JOBERT'S THINKING, THE FONMIN'S VISIT TO DAMASCUS APPEARS TO HAVE CHANGED QUAI ESTIMATES (REF A) ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR SYRIAN PARTICIPATION IN NEGOTIATIONS. IRWIN

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NNN

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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